

Texas Association of Certification Officers
Summer Meeting
Monday, June 11, 2007
St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas
Jones Auditorium, Ragsdale Campus Center

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by President Pam Johnson of LeTourneau University. President Johnson welcomed members and guests, recognized the 2006-2007 TACO officers and thanked the officers and members for a great year of service and wonderful experience. President Johnson introduced the 2007-2008 TACO President, Carole Errett of Schreiner University and presented the gavel to President Errett. President Errett presented Past President Johnson with a beautiful engraved wall clock for her dedication as TACO's 2006-2007 President.

President Errett introduced the 2007-2008 TACO officers.

President: Carole Errett, Schreiner University
President-Elect: Connie Sabo-Risley, University of The Incarnate Word
Secretary: Patty Motlagh, University of Texas at Arlington
Treasurer: J. Frank Smith, St. Edward's University
Past President: Pam Johnson, LeTourneau University

President Errett asked new TACO members to stand and two new members were recognized. No retiring TACO members were present.

The October minutes from the CSOTTE conference were amended as designated.

Treasurer Smith gave the Treasurer's report. As of June 8, 2007, TACO had assets of \$7643.98. He reported that he received additional dues at the meeting.

Treasurer Smith then gave the Membership report. As of June 8, 2007, 48 entities with 49 full and 33 associate members were enrolled with 82 members. He also reported that the membership increased at the meeting.

President Errett thanked Treasurer Smith for hosting the TACO meeting.

Under new business:

- President Errett invited TACO members to attend the CSOTTE Conference October 28-30, 2007 in El Paso, TX. The TACO meeting will be October 29, 2007 from 8:15 p.m – 9:45 p.m. Those members interested in providing door prizes, please contact Secretary Connie Sabo-Risley. Business cards will be used in place of numbered tickets for door prize drawings.
- President Errett proposed TACO members consider a new acronym for TACO. One of the suggestions was TCOA. President Errett will email TACO members for suggestions.

Dr. Janice Reyna of SBEC/TEA participated in a panel forum with Malcolm St. Romain, Alchemy and Jose Santiago, Rick Cullors and Jerry Deluca of ETS.

- Dr. Reyna stated that many testing changes occurred because of input from TACO members at the October 23, 2006 meeting at the CSOTTE Conference.
- Test development is ongoing.
- New Representative Forms for Music EC-12, Health EC-12 and Physical Education EC-12 will be available September 1, 2007 and orders can be made now.
- 12 tests are under review for applicable questions.
- Malcolm St. Romain with Alchemy commented that the test registration system has reporting issues and they are “fixing the bugs” and functionality of the system.
- Over 100,000 registered for tests since September 2006.
- 25,000 registered for the June 16 test administration.
- Dr. Reyna reported that changes are scheduled to be made in the registration process. The biggest change is in the candidate’s route of testing. With a goal of August 1, 2007, the testing route will be removed.
- Examinees access the ETS website for Certification by Exam Only, www.texas.ets.org. Examinees must have valid certification before registering. If examinee has trouble registering, they may contact SBEC customer service.
- Candidates transferring from one entity to another to complete a certification program must complete a TEA Data Reassignment Form. The forms are available under ASEP, *Handbooks, Forms, etc.*, a new feature under ASEP. If entities have questions or problems with completion of the form, contact Dr. Karen Loonam.
- Jose Santiago reported educator preparation programs identified Mexico and Puerto Rico as international countries where they would like TExES exams to be available to candidates. CAT exams only will be offered in Mexico and Puerto Rico beginning September 1, 2007. TOEFL is required.
- The demand for testing sites continues. Contact Mr. Santiago, jsantiago@ets.org.
- Dr. Reyna told TACO members they are increasing CAT sites in Music, PE and Health.
- Rick Cullors briefly discussed paper-based tests. Advised TACO members to remind candidates to register early, arrive on time the day of exam and review the ETS website for changes in their test location prior to exam.
- Mr. Jerry Deluca complimented Dr. Loonam and Dr. Reyna for their hard work and support of ETS and ETS’s transition to TExES exams. ETS remains committed to TExES.
- Ms. Kerri Elzie from TEA’s Credentialing office announced two certification training sessions, July 17, 2007 and July 20, 2006. The sessions will be held in the Travis Bldg.
- An amendment was proposed for EC-6 Generalist certification. If approved by the SBOE, the new exam begins 2009-2010.
- Languages Other than English (LOTE) exams approved by the SBEC Board are EC-12 Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, and Vietnamese. These exams are offered through a different testing company, American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) exams. The ACTFL website is currently in process.
- New exams for EC-12 French, German and Spanish are being developed. Development timeframe is 1-2 years.
- Programs must request approval for additional certification fields.

- Check website for dates of exams eliminated Fall 2007 and replacements exams, <http://www.sbec.state.tx.us/SBECOnline/about/asepassoctest.pdf>, **ASEP PRIMARY AND ASSOCIATED TESTS.**
- Ms. Elzie introduced Ms. Linda Arriaga, also from TEA's Credentialing office. Ms. Arriaga told TACO members that exceptions to requests from late applicants for certification are still being accepted. The appeals process takes several months or longer. The Director of Credentialing Services, Mr. Roman Echazarreta, handles appeals. Candidates making incorrect online applications should contact SBEC to transfer fees.

One hour lunch break.

The TACO business meeting resumed at 1 pm with President Carole Errett introducing a special guest, Dr. Susan Hetzler from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and an SBEC Board Member. Dr. Hetzler reminded TACO members to check the accreditation agency of bachelor degrees of those candidates entering our post bac programs. See list under ASEP in the ***Educator Preparation Program Director's Handbook: Educator Preparation Program Admission Criteria***. Dr. Hetzler informed TACO members that the Educational Aide Exemption Program, for qualified candidates completing teacher certification through Texas public community colleges and Texas public universities only, has made rule changes. Candidates completing teacher certification at the graduate level must complete the practicum. The candidate must have the equivalent experience of a Level III aide and the candidate's school district employment must be ongoing throughout the semester. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board wants to see that efforts are being made to lower the total of semester credit hours required for a bachelor's degree to 120 semester credit hours by universities.

Dr. Janice Reyna summarized the TEA Educator Standards Training Sessions.

President Errett adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by: Patty Motlagh